

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following substitute paragraph:

[0008] The present invention provides a sidewall for a plant container and a plant container incorporating the sidewall. The sidewall comprises a root-tip-trapping region, such as a bilayer material described below, and an air-root-pruning region, wherein the regions are combined to form the sidewall. The root-tip-trapping and air-root-pruning regions may be configured in various patterns such as rows, columns, dots, checkerboard and the like. However, the most preferred configuration has the root-tip-trapping region forming a ~~continuous~~ contiguous upper portion of the sidewall and the air-root-pruning region forming a lower portion of the sidewall. Preferably, the root-tip-trapping region will form the upper half of the container. Most preferably, the root-tip-trapping region will form between 2/3 and 3/4 of the sidewall.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following substitute paragraph:

[0011] The present sidewall is preferably used to form a freestanding plant container, for example a container with vertical sides and a flat bottom. Alternatively, the sidewall or the container may be placed in other pots or containers, or in open soil. The barrier may also be comprised of biodegradable materials for use in the root-tip-trapping layer, the root-impenetrable layer, or both layers. Biodegradable materials may be, for example, selected from wood, fiber, starch, polyhydroxyalkanoates, polycaprolactone, polylactide aliphatic copolymer, polylactide, aliphatic polyester, an aliphatic-aromatic copolymer, and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0020]:

[0020.1] Figure 7 is a cross-sectional side view of a container sidewall showing an air-root-pruning region that includes protuberances having outwardly extending distal ends that are open.

[0020.2] Figure 8 is a cross-sectional side view of a container sidewall showing a root-tip-trapping region that includes protuberances having outwardly extending distal ends that are closed to trap roots.

[0020.3] Figure 9 is a perspective view of a container formed with a sidewall include two root-tip-trapping regions and two air-root-pruning regions.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following substitute paragraph:

[0021] One embodiment of the present invention provides a sidewall for a plant container and a plant container incorporating the sidewall. The sidewall comprises a first region that is nonporous or water-impermeable and a second region that is porous or water-permeable. Preferably, the first region of the sidewall comprises a nonporous root-tip-trapping region, such as the bilayer material described above, and the second region comprises a porous air-root-pruning region, wherein the first and second regions are combined to form the sidewall. The root-tip-trapping and air-root-pruning regions may be configured in various patterns such as rows, columns, dots, checkerboard and the like. Accordingly, the sidewall may have two or more root-tip-trapping regions, or two or more air-root-pruning regions. However, the most preferred configuration has the root-tip-trapping region forming a ~~continuous~~ contiguous upper portion of the sidewall and the air-root-pruning region forming the lower portion of the sidewall. Preferably, the root-tip-trapping region will form between 1/2 and 9/10 of the sidewall, most preferably between 2/3 and 3/4 of the sidewall.

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0043.1]:

[0043.2] Figure **8** is a cross-sectional side view of a container sidewall **17** showing a root-tip-trapping region **13** that includes protuberances **43** having outwardly extending distal ends that are closed to trap roots, in combination with an air-root-pruning region **20** that include protuberances having outwardly extending distal ends that are open.

[0043.3] Figure **9** is a perspective view of a container formed with a sidewall include two root-tip-trapping regions **13** and two air-root-pruning regions **20** arranged in a pattern of rows. Each of the regions **13**, **20** may be formed and used, for example, in a manner consistent with Figures **1-8** and the description herein.

Please replace the Abstract with the following substitute paragraph:

A plant container and sidewall comprising a nonporous root-tip-trapping region and a porous air-root-pruning region combined to form the sidewall. ~~The regions may be configured in various patterns including rows, columns, dots, and checkerboard. However, the~~ most preferred configuration has the root-tip-trapping region forming a ~~continuous~~ contiguous upper portion of the sidewall and the air-root-pruning region forming the lower portion of the sidewall. Preferably, the root-tip-trapping region will form between 1/2 and 9/10 of the sidewall, most preferably between 2/3 and 3/4 of the sidewall. The advantages of the unique sidewall construction include preventing root circling, promoting water conservation, eliminating perched water tables, and providing proper aeration. These advantages promote plants that are healthier overall and grow faster.